

Subversion by CIA

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. JONATHAN B. BINGHAM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 20, 1967

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the recent disclosures of CIA financing of all kinds of domestic, as well as foreign, activities are not only shocking in themselves, but are unquestionably damaging to the reputation of the United States and of literally scores of American organizations whose integrity and independence have been brought into question.

There may be those who are saying that the damage was caused by the unauthorized disclosures, but surely those responsible for these farflung subsidies must have known that they could not be kept secret indefinitely.

One of the many tragedies of this affair is that obviously many of the organizations were entirely unaware of the source of the support they were receiving, and even in those cases where a few individuals knew the facts the vast majority of the rank-and-file members did not. Nevertheless, all have been tarred with the same brush, or at the very least embarrassed.

This mess—for it surely deserves that term—once again emphasizes the need for more effective supervision by the Congress of the operations of the CIA. In May 1965, in testimony before the Joint Committee on Organization of the Congress, I urged the creation of a joint committee, to be named by the Speaker of the House, the minority leader of the House, and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, to provide the necessary oversight of the CIA. I now urgently renew that recommendation.

Whether or not those of our colleagues who have been responsible for overseeing the activities of the CIA to date knew of the CIA system of covert subsidies which have now been brought to light, it would seem clear that a new and broader system of congressional supervision is needed.

I include herewith a thoughtful and cogent editorial on this whole subject appearing in today's New York Times:

SUBVERSION BY CIA

The disastrous effects of the systematic penetration of American educational, cultural and labor organizations by the Central Intelligence Agency daily become more apparent. The strength of these organizations, both in the structure of American society and in their relations with their opposite numbers in other nations, always has been their freedom from government domination.

Now, through the deviousness of C.I.A. operations, thousands of scholars, students, unionists and professional leaders discover long after the fact that they have performed unwitting and undesired duty as secret agents.

The integrity of pro-American positions, honestly taken by groups and individuals in the worldwide battle of ideas, has been undermined. The independence of America's private foundations has been brought into question. In short, faith in American institutions has been besmirched in a way that

would have eluded the reach of any foreign enemy.

It is no excuse to say that the C.I.A.'s decision to use a limitless range of philanthropic fronts to funnel its funds into youth groups, universities and other private institutions was designed to meet a very real problem of the cold war: the need for assuring that the Communists would not have an unchallenged field in the youth congresses and cultural conferences they were arranging—and subsidizing—on a global basis ten and fifteen years ago. That problem should have been met openly—by direct public subsidy.

It should have been clear long ago to the C.I.A.'s overseers in the White House that the end effect of clandestine subsidies to groups representative of the detachment and diversity of a free society must inevitably taint the genuineness of their detachment. This would be true even without the charges that have now developed of the assignment of C.I.A. operatives to influence the policy statements and choice of officers of the National Student Association—a practice that may have extended to other organizations as well.

The health of a democratic society depends on the certainty that its free institutions—its press, its educational and scientific bodies, its publishing houses and television networks, its unions and business organizations—are truly free. That does not mean government is barred from underwriting international exchanges or research study; it means that, where such support is appropriate, it must be given openly through its own public agencies.

The worst part of the current mess is that the very nature of the C.I.A., with its mandate for espionage and subversion all over the world, rules out any thoroughgoing public inquiry into its activities. That means some residue of suspicion is sure to remain—both in this country and abroad—no matter how conscientiously the Cabinet Committee appointed last week by President Johnson seeks to formulate policies that will prevent the C.I.A. or any other Federal bureau from imperiling the "integrity and independence" of educational institutions.

When a government finds it necessary to set up an agency to fight subversion with subversion everywhere, the tragic danger it opens up is that among the people it subverts are its own. The defense against such weakening of America's institutional fabric must rest with the President and Congress. Even with the recent broadening of Senator Russell's watchdog committee, Congress is not doing its part of that job.

Lithuanian Independence Day

SPEECH

OF

HON. GLENN CUNNINGHAM

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1967

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, we Americans cannot console in any way or in any words a valiant nation that has lost its freedom to the forces of tyranny. But, Mr. Speaker, we can and do extend our deepest gratitude to the people of Lithuania for the magnificent example they have set for us and for other freemen the world over.

This example has many parts stretching across the centuries. Unified in 1253, annexed by Russia in 1790, proclaimed free again in 1918, and shackled

by Soviet communism in 1940, by Nazi terrorism in 1941, and once more by Soviet communism in 1944, the Lithuanian nation does not cry out from anguish and almost unbelievable suffering nearly as much as it sings joyfully a ringing truth: freemen are always free in their hearts and spirit and hope.

From this truth all people of good will take rich nourishment by the use of which they can support human liberty, and all tyrants and tyrannies take warning of their own ultimate demise.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, let Americans pause reflectively and determinedly to commemorate 1967, the 714th anniversary of Lithuanian national unity, and February 16, 1967, the 49th anniversary of the founding of the Lithuanian Republic.

Watchdog Over the CIA

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. WILLIAM F. RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 20, 1967

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, an excellent editorial in the New York Times today supports the proposal to set up a congressional watchdog committee over the CIA. I have introduced such legislation in the past three Congresses. My bill this year is H.J. Res. 305. The editorial points out the danger of having a secret agency of government over which there is no effective congressional control. The New York Times states: "When a government finds it necessary to set up an agency to fight subversion with subversion everywhere, the tragic danger it opens up is that among the people it subverts are its own. The defense against such weakening of America's institutional fabric must rest with the President and the Congress. Congress is not doing its part of that job."

In view of the revelations of the past few days, I urge my colleagues to read and ponder the following editorial:

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Now, through the deviousness of CIA operations, thousands of scholars, students, unionists and professional leaders discover long after the fact that they have performed unwitting and undesired duty as secret agents.

The integrity of pro-American positions, honestly taken by groups and individuals in the worldwide battle of ideas, has been undermined. The independence of America's private foundations has been brought into question. In short, faith in American institutions has been besmirched in a way that would have eluded the reach of any foreign enemy.

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